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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on June 5, 2000.

Jacqueline L. Lim
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Barry N. GARDINER et al.

Serial No.: 08/781,579

Filing Date: January 9, 1997

For: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

Examiner: L. Ngo

Group Art Unit: 3731

AMENDMENT UNDER C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2000 for which a response was due on May 3, 2000 and for which a 1 month extension of time is also requested to extend the time for response from May 3, 2000 to June 3, 2000, which falls on a weekend. Under 37 C.F.R. §1.7, when the due date for taking any action or paying any fee falls on a Federal Holiday, the action may be taken the next succeeding business day, therefore extending the time of response from June 3, 2000 to June 5, 2000. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.